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ON TAP

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Water Allocation Announced

Can you cut back your water use by 15%?

Unless you are an extremely wise water user, you will soon be required to do so.

Due to the continued drought conditions in the State and water levels in State Reservoirs, Trabuco Canyon Water District (District) will soon receive official notification that its annual water allocation will be reduced by 15% for the 2009 calendar year. If the District fails to reduce water consumption by 15%, then it can be assumed very severe financial penalties will be levied against the District. The District will have no alternative other than to pass these penalties onto its customers.

The District is not alone in this requirement. This water reduction applies to every water supplier in the State.

So now is the time to start planning and implementing ways to conserve water. The District has posted special information on its website to guide water consumers about water conservation and ways to achieve a 15% reduction, as well as complying with the District's pending Water Ordinance.

The District is in the process of revising and updating its Water Ordinance. Basically speaking, the Water Ordinance is the "rules for water use" for District customers. For the most part, the District is adopting most of the suggestions of the sample water ordinance provided by Metropolitan Water District (MET).

While the ordinance is written for cities that are water purveyors, the ordinance is easily adapted to special districts that are retail water agencies, which is what Trabuco Canyon Water District is.

The revised ordinance the District will soon adopt will establish acceptable water use practices, some simple to implement, and some will require some thought and education of family members. This information will be provided to you in a future special mailing from the District.

Regarding the 15% reduction requirement, Trabuco Canyon Water District is supplied water from the very large water wholesale provider, MET. MET is one of a number of wholesale water agencies in the State. MET is responsible for providing water for most of the southern California area.

The amount of water MET can deliver is based on a number of criteria, but the most important factor is the actual water allocation determined by the State Department of Water Resources. The Department of Water Resources evaluates anticipated climate conditions, snow pack, and state reservoir levels (such as Oroville Reservoir and San Luis Reservoir).

Currently, State water reservoirs are considered to be abnormally low, and persistence of drought conditions have necessitated the

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implementation of water supply reductions to retail providers from the water wholesalers. In this mailing, the District has provided you a

status report from the Department of Water Resources of the water levels of the State reservoirs measured in acre feet (AF). An acre foot is one foot of water over one acre of land.

In the meantime, conservation could, and should, begin now.

Most of the large water saving is achieved by focusing on outside irrigation. Simple items like limiting outside irrigation to that which is minimally required and avoiding water run off onto the street when irrigating may bring a household very close to a 15% percent reduction.

Automated irrigation systems should be checked for station run times and days of operation. Watering at night is more effective because water evaporation loss is minimal.

Inside, unnecessary running of tap water during food preparation, teeth brushing, or shaving is another common way to reduce water consumption.

And of course, a family discussion about wise water use is perhaps the best tool to reduce water consumption. Long showers may still feel good (we understand it is a favorite among teenagers), but they may soon become very, very expensive.

A reminder, if you pay your utility billings through your bank and designate the due date of your water bill as the date for payment, you might be risking a late fee. This is due to the fact that the bank's payment process may delay the payment to the District until after the due date. If this occurs, the payment will be considered late even though the funds have been removed from your account on the due date.

The Regular Board Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District office located at 32003 Dove

TCWD'S ON TAP

Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ October 15, 2008 – Directed staff to notice a Public Hearing related to an Ordinance Adopting a Mandatory Water Conservation Plan.
- ◇ Adopted an Identity Theft Prevention Program.
- ◇ Supported the Local Agency Formation Commission's reconfirmation of TCWD's Sphere of Influence.
- ◇ Approved an Agreement for the Construction, Operation and Maintenance of the Baker Water Treatment Plant.
- ◇ Ratified emergency repairs to the Dove Lake Service Road and approved the pipeline installation.
- ◇ Approved the Pine Bluff Pipeline Break Repair and Remedial Actions.
- ◇ Approved an agreement for the reallocation of sewer capacity.
- ◇ Received information relating to financial assumptions and water rates.
- ◇ Received a status update relating to the Rose Canyon and Lang Wells Upgrades to Treatment Facilities.
- ◇ Received information relating to the water allocation plan.
- ◇ Conducted a Closed Session.

ON TAP is published and distributed by TCWD. We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write Sharon E. Smith, Editor

TCWD's *ON-TAP*

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